

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	1
Meeting Date	December 3, 2007
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Recognizing Kathy Porter
Background	Kathy Porter served as the Councilmember for Ward 2 from 1991 to 1997 and as Mayor from 1997 to 2007. She did not seek re-election in the fall of 2007 and left office on November 19, 2007.
Policy	The Council may adopt resolutions to recognize individuals who have contributed to the Takoma Park community.
Fiscal Impact	None
Attachments	Draft resolution recognizing former Mayor and Councilmember Kathy Porter
Recommendation	Staff recommends that the Council adopt the attached resolution.
Special Consideration	

Resolution 2007-60
Recognizing Former Mayor and Councilmember Kathy Porter

- WHEREAS,** Kathy Porter was appointed to the Takoma Park City Council representing Ward 2 in January 1991 to complete the term of Ed Sharp who was appointed Mayor when Mayor Steve DelGiudice was elected to the Prince George's County Council in November 1990; and,
- WHEREAS,** Kathy Porter was then elected and re-elected to the Ward 2 seat, which she held until she was elected as the first female Mayor of Takoma Park in 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** Kathy Porter served as Mayor for ten years, until she chose not to run for re-election in 2007; and,
- WHEREAS,** throughout her tenure, Kathy Porter was particularly successful at building on the relationships she developed so as to better the lives of the people of Takoma Park; and
- WHEREAS,** she capitalized on the connections from her past position as President of the South of Sligo Citizens Association, when that portion of Takoma Park was in Prince George's County, by advocating for the renovation of Carole Highlands Elementary School and the creation of the Sligo Creek Hiker-Biker Trail; and
- WHEREAS,** she used her close relationships with Prince George's County officials to help win the right to hold a binding referendum on unifying Takoma Park into one county, resulting in Takoma Park's unification into Montgomery County in 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** as a Councilmember and Mayor, Kathy Porter served on many regional and municipal committees, including the Metropolitan Washington Transportation Planning Board, where she was Chair in 2000 and where she served as Chair of its Access for All Advisory Committee from 2003 to 2006; the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee; the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee; the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Municipal League; the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, where she served as President; and the Maryland Mayors Association, where she was President from 2002 to 2003; and
- WHEREAS,** while doing the important work of these many committees, she furthered her relationships with State, County and regional officials, resulting in improved understanding of the needs of the Takoma Park community by other jurisdictions; and
- WHEREAS,** Kathy Porter was particularly effective in garnering support for the Takoma Park Community Center from the State Legislature, Montgomery County and the Federal government, resulting in the award of \$5 million in funding towards the cost of construction of the Center; and
- WHEREAS,** Kathy Porter advocated strongly within Takoma Park for the Community Center, even through difficulties with the construction and through tight financial times, resulting in the completion of this exceptional facility in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Porter showed her heart when it came to the community's young people, most prominently when it came to advocating for the community center and gym, but also in speaking to classes of school children, helping with the Maryland Municipal League's "If I Were Mayor" program for young people, and generally caring about the children of Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Porter has been a consistent and strong advocate for affordable housing policies, Takoma Park's rent stabilization program, and legislation regulating condominium conversions; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Porter has been a consistent and strong advocate for public transit, persuading State officials to extend the Route 16 Ride On bus to serve the eastern side of Takoma Park and, later, to increase the service hours of this important transit connection; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Porter was a strong supporter of the Purple Line; and she worked tirelessly to preserve transit access to the Takoma Metro station; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Porter's composure in difficult situations was a tremendous asset, allowing for constructive discussion of sensitive issues; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Porter cared about all of the areas of Takoma Park and about each of the many groups and types of people living here; and

WHEREAS, her inclusiveness and her efforts to build consensus resulted in a shared sense of community within Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Porter took her role and responsibilities as Mayor very seriously, participating in a heavy schedule of events and meetings throughout the community, week after week, year after year; and

WHEREAS, Takoma Park is a better place for her seventeen years of service on the Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK that Kathryn H. Porter is hereby recognized and honored for her many and profound contributions to the Takoma Park community.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of December, 2007.

Bruce R. Williams
Mayor